



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council emergency meeting on the situation in the Middle East
(Yemen)
Monday 13 July 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered
by H.E. Ms. Aglaia Balta
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations

Thank you Mr. President,

I thank Assistant Secretary General of DPPA, Mr. Khiari, and Acting Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. Ratwatte for their briefings. I also welcome the participation of the Permanent Representative of Yemen in the meeting.

Yemen is once again at dangerous crossroads, posing serious challenges to regional peace, security, and stability. Houthi threats against maritime and aviation security - including explicit threats of force against neighboring countries- are not empty rhetoric. They are a direct assault on regional stability, and we condemn them without reservation.

Our message remains clear and consistent: Yemen's sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and independence must be fully respected, including Yemen's national airspace, in accordance with international law.

We call on all parties to exercise maximum restraint, refrain from any actions that threaten Yemen's sovereignty, and to support efforts of de-escalation, peace and stability in the country – not as a talking point, but as an operational necessity.

Mr. President,

There is no military solution to the crisis, as previous speakers have stated. Only a comprehensive, inclusive, and sustainable political solution, including security guarantees for the Red Sea region, remains the only viable path toward lasting peace in Yemen.

We reaffirm our strong support for the efforts of the UN Special Envoy Hans Grundberg, to facilitate an inclusive, Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned political process, under the auspices of the UN, conducted in full respect of Yemen's sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence, and unity. Maritime security in the Red Sea region needs to be an integral part of this process.

Let us be clear what is at stake. Freedom of navigation in the Red Sea is not a regional convenience – it is a global lifeline. International maritime routes must remain open, safe, and secure, and commercial shipping must be protected at all times, in accordance with international law.

Sanctions enforcement is not optional. The importance of full compliance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the existing UN sanctions regime, including the targeted arms embargo against the Houthis, established under Security Council Resolution 2216 and subsequent relevant resolutions remains vital.

Attempts to circumvent the arms embargo undermine every diplomatic effort under way. We call on all Member States to ensure its full, effective and consistent implementation.

I thank you.